

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A software development kit for enabling a developer to provide real-time communications capabilities to an application program, which comprises:

means for establishing a connection to a real-time server;

means for sending a message; and,

means for receiving a message.

2. The software development kit as claimed in claim 1, including:

means for disconnecting from a real-time server.

3. The software development kit as claimed in claim 1, including:

means for creating a communications channel through a real-time platform associated with said real-time server.

4. The software development kit as claimed in claim 3, including:

means for joining a third party user to said communications channel.

5. The software development kit as claimed in claim 3, including:

means for deleting a third party user from said communications channel.

6. The software development kit as claimed in claim 3, including:

means for invoking said communications channel.

7. The software development kit as claimed in claim 3, including:

means for destroying said communications channel.

8. The software development kit as claimed in claim 1, including:

means for announcing status to said real-time server.

9. The software development kit as claimed in claim 1, including:  
means for requesting third party user status from said real-time server.